

Application No. 10/072,463
Amendment Dated: August 18, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 18, 2004

Remarks/Arguments

In the office action dated June 18, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, objected to claim 5, and indicated that claims 6-12 were allowable. Although Applicants do not concur with the Examiner's characterization of the prior art references, Applicants have canceled claims 1-5 in order to allow the remaining pending claims to issue. Applicants' cancellation is merely for the expeditious prosecution of the pending allowed claims, and is without prejudice to Applicants' right to seek protection for the subject matter covered by claims 1-4, which right Applicants hereby expressly reserve.

Applicants have added new claim 13 having the substance of canceled claim 5 in independent form. Applicant respectfully submits that this new claim does not add any new matter and its entry is respectfully requested. As the allowability of the subject matter of this claim has already been indicated by the Examiner, Applicant respectfully submits that this claim is allowable. Applicant has also added new dependent claims 14-19 dependent from new claim 13, which are allowable for the reason that they are dependent from an allowable claim.

Conclusion

In light of the amendments, remarks and arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully submits that the claims in the Application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the pending claims 6-19 is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees, other than the issue fees, that may be required by this paper to Deposit Account 07-0153.


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If the Examiner has any questions or comments, or if further clarification is required, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.



Dated: 8-18-2004

Respectfully submitted,
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